

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-permeable multilayer film comprising:
an oxygen-permeable first heat-sealable outer layer;
an oxygen-permeable second heat-sealable outer layer; and
at least one oxygen-permeable intermediate microporous layer disposed between said first and second heat-sealable outer layers,
said first and second heat-sealable outer layers independently formed from heat sealable composition comprising at least one of polyolefin, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene methyl acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene methyl acid and ionomer as a primary polymer, wherein the primary polymer is present in the heat sealable composition in an amount of at least about 20 weight percent, and said intermediate microporous layer formed from an oxygen impermeable composition and being free of particulate filler.
2. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said heat sealable composition exhibits an oxygen transmission rate that is at least about 50 cc-mil/100 in²-24 hr-atm @ std.temp. higher than said oxygen impermeable composition.
3. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen impermeable composition exhibits a melting point that is at least about 5 °C higher than said heat sealable composition.
4. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen impermeable composition exhibits a modulus that is at least about 5,000 psi higher than said heat sealable composition.
5. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen impermeable composition comprises at least one of polyethylene homopolymer, polypropylene homopolymer, ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, propylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, ethylene/unsaturated ester

copolymer, styrene homopolymer or copolymer, and polyester homopolymer or copolymer as a primary polymer.

6. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said oxygen impermeable composition comprises polypropylene/alpha-olefin copolymer as a primary polymer.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises an ethylene/alpha olefin copolymer as a primary polymer.

9. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 1, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises linear low density polyethylene as a primary polymer.

10. (Currently Amended) An oxygen-permeable multilayer film comprising:
an oxygen-permeable first heat-sealable outer layer;
an oxygen-permeable second heat-sealable outer layer;
an oxygen-permeable center layer;
an oxygen-permeable first intermediate microporous layer disposed between said first heat-sealable outer layer and said center layer; and
an oxygen-permeable second intermediate microporous layer disposed between said second heat-sealable outer layer and said center layer,

said first and second heat-sealable outer layers and said center layer each independently comprising a heat sealable composition comprising at least one of polyolefin, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene methyl acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene methyl acid and ionomer as a primary polymer, wherein the primary polymer is present in the heat sealable composition in an amount of at least about 20 weight percent, and said first and second intermediate microporous layers each independently comprising an oxygen impermeable polymer composition and each being free of particulate filler.

11. (Previously Presented) A multilayer film according to Claim 10, wherein said oxygen impermeable polymer composition comprises propylene/alpha olefin copolymer as a primary polymer.

12. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 10, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer as a primary polymer.

13. (Original) A multilayer film according to Claim 10, wherein said heat sealable composition comprises linear low density polyethylene as a primary polymer.

14. (Currently Amended) A package comprising:

(a) an oxygen-sensitive product; and

(b) an oxygen-permeable multilayer film comprising

(i) an oxygen-permeable first heat-sealable outer layer formed from a heat sealable composition comprising at least one of polyolefin, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene methyl acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene methyl acid and ionomer as a primary polymer;

(ii) an oxygen-permeable second heat-sealable outer layer formed from a heat sealable composition comprising at least one of polyolefin, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene methyl acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene methyl acid and ionomer as a primary polymer, wherein the primary polymer is present in the heat sealable composition in an amount of at least about 20 weight percent; and

(iii) at least one oxygen-permeable intermediate microporous layer disposed between said first and second heat-sealable outer layers, said intermediate microporous layer formed from an oxygen impermeable composition and being free of particulate filler.

15. (Original) A package according to Claim 14, wherein said multilayer film substantially surrounds said oxygen-sensitive product.

Appl. No.: 10/661,848
Amdt. Dated 10/18/2006

Reply to Office Action of Office Action dated July 27, 2006

16. (Original) A package according to Claim 14, wherein said oxygen-sensitive product comprises at least one foodstuff selected from the group consisting of meat, dairy products, fruits and cut vegetables.

17. (Original) A package according to Claim 14, wherein said multilayer film is lidding stock.

18-23. (Canceled)